# nature net

The **Nature***Kenya* Newsletter * www.naturekenya.org * August 06


## How come there are so many different plants?

*Tues 26 Sept'06*

at the Louis Leakey M. Hall, Nairobi Museum 5.30 p.m.

A presentation on the number of flowering plant species in Kenya and a discussion on how plant species can exist together, without competition between them eliminating all but the best one.

Talk presented by the author of the plant key Upland Kenya Wild Flowers - **Dr. Andrew Agnew**

## Direct Debit!

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## AUGUST AT A GLIMPSE

| | |
|---|---|
| Sat 12 | Tree Walk |
| Sat 12 - Sun 13 | Athi River trip |
| Sun 20 | Sunday Birdwalk |
| Mon 28 | Tree Walk |
| *Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning* | |
| *Bird ringing every Thursday Morning* | |

## Editorial Team

*Editor* Catherine Ngarachu
*Evening Skies* Fleur Ng'weno
*Naturalist's Corner* Dino Martins

## World Bird Festival

*November '06*

*Kenya's birds and birding*

How many of Kenya's 1089 species of birds can you see and identify in *24hrs!*

BirdLife world bird festival 2006

Thot is the challenge in Navember ta birdwatchers, wha wish to compete to see the mast birds in 24hrs. A list completed during ony 24 haurs in the manth of Navember con be submitted.

If you are interested please send yaur nome ond contacts ta office@noturekenya.org An informatian pack with checklist and map will be sent to you in due caurse. Yau must pair with at least ane ather registered member for your list to qualify.

## British Bird Fair

*August '06*

Ta encaurage bird taurism, which will postively impact Important Bird Areas in Kenyo, Nature Kenya will be participoting ot the British Bird Fair '06. It will be an opportunity ta provide informatian on Kenyan birds and birding.

Rotary-Maralal International

## Camel Derby

*4 - 6 August '06*

at the Yare Camel Club, Maralal

Join the fun in this unique, exciting event! Activities include Camel Races, Bike Races, Running Races, Fun Games for children and adults alike.

Camels and Bikes available for hire to participate in events. Accommodation and Camping available in Maralal

Information and Enquiries:
Yare Camel Club: mobile: 0723 702461 land line: 065 62295
yare@africaonline.co.ke
Rotary Club of Maralal (Community Service Chair) 0721 565383
lemunyete@wananchi.com

## Athi River

*Sat 12 - Sun 13 August '06*

**overnight Wanafunzi Lodge, Hopcraft Ranch**

Wonofunzi Ladge is situated in o smoll acacia forest an o ranch looking towards Lukenya, with plenty of plains game ond bird life. We will da a walk ond visit Simon Thomsett's falconry. Also possible from here ore doy and night game drives.

The lodge is obout 6 kms from the moin raad and obaut 45 minutes from Nairobi depending on the troffic. There is no problem with the rood an the ranch except during the rains then o 4 X4 vehicle is recommended.

Cast is 3500/- per person sharing full boord or 4000/- far o single.
*BOOK TODAY!*

Full details in the KMS newsletter
Cost in Cottage 7,400/-
For inquiries call 0733 704267 or email narinder_heyer@yahoo.co.uk

Kenya Museum Society

## Garissa-Tana River Primate Park trip

*24 - 27 August '06*

While at the Coast

# Visit Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

Arabuko-Sokoke is the largest remnant of the East African coastal forest. It is considered the second most important forest for conservation in Africa, with over 6 globally threathened bird species, rare and endemic mammal, amphibian and butterfly species.

The forest covers an area of 420 square kms in Kilifi and Malindi Districts of Coast Province. It is about 100 kms north of Mombasa, near the Indian Ocean. The gate to the visitor centre is on the main road from Mombasa to Malindi, 1.5 kms south of the Watamu-Gede junction.

Nature Kenya has been working there, alongside other partners, since 1984. Currently, we manage several projects to help Government agencies and local communities to conserve the forest.

**Conservation Initiatives**

The award-winning **Kipepeo Project** is a community-based butterfly-farming project started by Nature Kenya. It is based at the Gede Ruins National Monument, which is on the edge of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Kipepeo trains local farmers to rear butterfly caterpillars on the leaves of forest trees. The pupae are then purchased from the farmers for export to live butterfly exhibits in Europe and the United States. Community earnings since 1994 have exceeded US $1 million. The success of the Kipepeo Project has had a significant positive effect on people's livelihoods and attitudes towards the forest. Visit the Kipepeo website at www.kipepeo.org

The **ASSETS** programme, is an eco-bursary scheme, providing secondary school scholarships. Developed by A Rocha Kenya with assistance from NABU, the German BirdLife Partner, ASSETS responds to the needs of local school children, whilst encouraging community support for the protection of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, and the associated tidal inlet of Mida Creek. To assist please visit www.assets-kenya.org

**Participatory Forest Management (PFM)** contributes to forest management by allowing communities to participate in decision-making and to benefit from the forest.

This helps to improve the communities' livelihood, resolve conflicts and ensure more equitable benefit sharing.

## action

Visitors at forest tree platform
by Colin Jackson

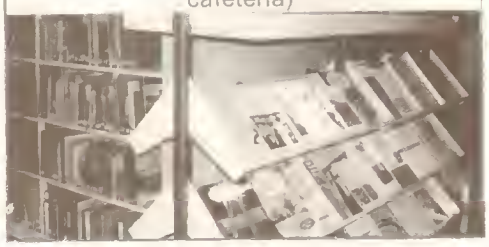
In the PFM project funded by USAID, Nature Kenya is

- Building local capacity for sustained conservation action
- Developing entrepreneurs for improved livelihoods
- Availing basic services like water to poor local communities
- Availing initial investment capital for nature-based enterprises. These include butterfly farming, apiculture, ecotourism, mushroom farming, Aloe vera production, and sericulture
- Developing institutional capacity for improved governance, leadership and decision making
- Developing monitoring systems for assessment, evaluation and correction.

The local community living within five kilometers adjacent to the forest are united under the **Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Adjacent Dwellers Association (ASFADA)**. ASFADA is an umbrella body, representing more than 300 conservation minded community organizations implementing different activities from the sustainable use of natural resources.

## library re-opens

located at the Natural Sciences Building, National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi (next to the Langi Langi cafeteria)



## 1909 - 2009 centenary celebrations

In 2009 Nature Kenya (the East Africa Natural History Society) celebrates 100 years of research, education and conservation

*Give us your suggestions as to how we can celebrate this achievement!*

*One suggestion has been - a commemorative postage stamp - but what can you suggest one or more stamps might look like?*

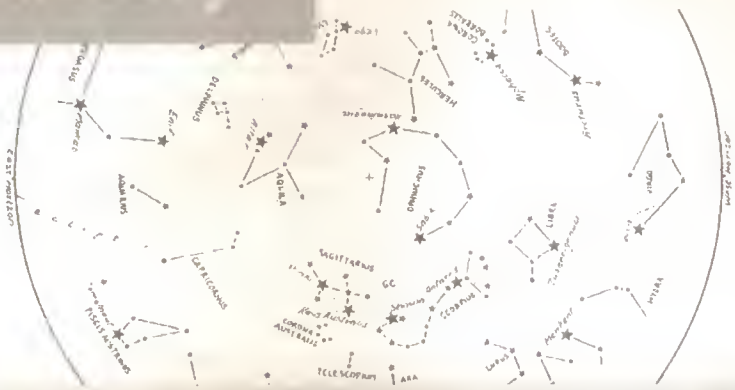
**Send us your commemorative postage stamp design?**

## Bird Hotline

3749957

**Broad-tailed Warbler, Parasitic Weaver** *Nairobi National P./ Jun '06* Bob and Linda Hawkins, Shailesh Patel
**Brown-chested Plover** *Masai Mara/ Jun '06* Chege Kariuki

Banana Fibre artwork on hemp available from Nature Kenya offices for 700/- shillings. Developed by the Friends of Kinangop Plateau



# EVENING SKY

Ian Mackay & Fleur Ng'weno

### Moon, August 2006

2nd - **First quarter** moon; 4th - Moon occults Antares; 9th - **Full moon**; 16th - **Last quarter moon**; 23rd - **New moon**; 25th - Moon just south of Mars;

### August Stars

In August the ecliptic - the path alang which the maon and planets seem to move - runs directly from east to west. The Milky Way - the ribbon of millions of stars that is our galaxy - runs across the sky from nartheast ta sauthwest.

Bright stars in August skies include orange yellow Arcturus in the northwest; blue-white Spica in the southwest; reddish Antares high in the south; two bright stars of the Centaur constellation law in the south; Altair flanked by two smaller stars high in the east; and bright white Vega in the north-northeast.

Spica is just north of the moon an August first, and again close to the moon a lunar cycle later, on the 28th. On August 4th, the moon passes between the Earth and the reddish star Antares in the constellation Scorpius.

Scorpius dominates the southern sky; loak for stars forming its claws, its fiery eye, the curve of its body and the sting in its tail. It is followed in the sky by the teapot shape of Sagittarius, the Archer. The centre of our galaxy lies in the Milky Way between Scorpius and Sagittarius. Looking through binoculars or a telescope, you can see many star clusters in this area.

### Planets, August 2006

Jupiter, high and bright, and Mars, dull and law, are still visible in the western evening sky. Mars is near the moan an August 25th. Jupiter appears just north of the moon on August 2nd and once again in more or less the same place a lunar cycle later (the 29th).

The other planets can be seen in the eastern sky befare dawn. Venus is brilliant but very low. After August, Venus will be in the glare of the sun until December, after which it will emerge in the evening. Saturn appears in the last week of August, just south of the moon on the 22nd.

Little Mercury appears at its highest in the marning sky at the start of August and gradually sinks lower through the next 3 weeks. Mercury is just south af the moon on the 22nd.

# CLASSIFIEDS

*Reach over 1000 members by advertising in Nature Net Rates for Classifieds: • Up to 25 words 250/- • Up to 50 words 500/- Ads • @ 1750/- • with image +500/-*


## PLANT INDIGENOUS TREES AND SHRUBS

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bvwilliams@swiftkenya.com
CAROLE HEMMINGS
0733 747865
carole@access350.co.ke

"Don't drink that natural spring water - it's polluted with agrochemicals!"

For more Chris Madden cartoons buy his book "The Beast that ate the Earth" from his website www.chrismadden.org

# Up & about

## DECLARATION

*Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.*

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

### TREE WALKS

Guided tree walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. **12** and **28 Aug 06** from 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Arboretum gate. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

### SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e. 20 Aug '06.** The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

### BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museums' Nairobi Botanic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday.

### SAMAKI DAYS *New!!

Guided fish excursions on the first Thursday, i.e. **3 Aug '06** from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park. *Pay Ksh 50/- per person on arrival*

### KINANGOP GUEST HOUSE

Perched on the Kinangop Plateau with incredible views across the Rift Valley, the farm combines tussock-grass pasture, indigenous forest, and attractive gardens. The guesthouse is comfortable and fully furnished. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the farm or go further afield with local guides.

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya.

bhcjx

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 pax | 4,900/- | 7,400/- |
| 4 pax | 5,800/- | 8,300/- |

### 20% OFF ACCOMMODATION AT THE DRIFTWOOD

On presentation of your membership card, you can get this discount off accommodation (if paying by cash or cheque) at the Driftwood Beachclub. This is a charming beachfront property with great food and service. Contact: <gm@driftwoodclub.com or tel 042 20155

### Ngong Road Forest Walks

Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks held the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. **5 & 19 Aug '06, at 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse. Call Ignatius to confirm on 3875207 or 0720 976299.

### Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 057 42952 or 0734 994938 or email lakevictoriasunsetbirders@yahoo.co.uk

### Mt Kenya Biodiversity Conservation Group (MKBCG)

The MKBCG organise bird walks to sites around Naro Moru every last Saturday of the month i.e. **26 Aug '06.**
For more information contact 0722 364904, 0733 937115 or 062 62071 Email: mt_kebio@yahoo.co.uk_

### Birding at Kinangop

Friends of Kinangop Plateau organise birdwalks every third Friday of the month i.e. **18 Aug 06** at 9:00 a.m around Magumu and Njambini areas. To participate contact Bakari Ng'ang'a on 0721 470215

### MARURA NAROK BIRDWATCHERS

A community group near Uaso Narok Swamp, Rumuruti, which organises birdwalks every last Saturday *i.e.* **26 Aug '06.** Call 062 32718 or email olmaisor@africaonline.co.ke

### ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **5 Aug '06, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

### FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. **19 Aug '06.**Please call Marlene Reid on (041) 491 648 to confirm

## NatureKenya

Yes! ☐ *Start* ☐ *Renew*
*my Nature Kenya membership*

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*tside of Kenya please refer to www.naturekenya.org*

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